

February 2015

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

We are keeping to our plan of letting you know what we do each term. Here is our latest report.

Governors are responsible for our clarity of vision and the strategic direction of the school. We hold the headteacher to account and we make sure that money is well spent. The headteacher is responsible for the day to day running of the school

HOW WELL WE HAVE DONE

Newtown aims to help all our children to achieve their potential and to produce confident, independent learners. Most children are expected to reach Level 4 at the end of Key Stage 2 in order to be ready for secondary school.

The school is judged on the standards which children reach in external tests and the progress they make. We still have relatively small groups of children taking tests each year, and this can lead to a greater variation than normal in results from year to year.

This is the last year when levels will be used as the government is changing the system for assessment.

Standards & Progress

- Last year we focused on improving standards and progress in maths. We were very pleased that our Year 6 children reached the target we set: 80% reached Level 4 in their SATs.
- Our children did less well in writing last summer so improving standards in writing is a big focus during this school year.
- It is good to see some children now exceeding their targets, particularly in maths.

Pupil Premium funding is used to help children who, because of disadvantage, do not do well in school; the funding is used to help them to do better. We continue to look at how we spend Pupil Premium funding to make sure we are using it as effectively as possible.

The government's Data Dashboard will soon show the 2014 test results and other information: (<http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk/dash.php?urn=113083>). You can also see our Key Stage 2 results by clicking on **Prospectus** in the **About Us** section of the school website. You will find details of how we are spending Pupil Premium Funding in the same section.

We are given a lot of data to study and we use it to identify challenges and then look at ways of overcoming those challenges to enable all children to fulfil their potential.

SPORTS PREMIUM

Governors have to make sure that all our money is well spent. This includes the Sports Premium: extra funding to widen sporting opportunities for children and to train staff. We have asked questions and made decisions about this new money.

The Sports Premium is currently paying for swimming lessons. Children really value these lessons and say that swimming gives them confidence. We have decided that some of the funding will pay to train staff as swimming coaches; these new skills will reduce the cost of swimming lessons when the funding is no longer available.

We are also very pleased that the school is now offering a wider range of sporting opportunities so that all our pupils become more confident and engaged in physical activity. Our sports partnership with St Luke's School is helping us with this.

SCHOOL MEALS

There have been teething problems with the introduction of Free School Meals for children in Key Stage 1. Fresha has worked well with the school to sort these out.

There have been hidden costs to Universal Free School Meals. We have spent a considerable amount on the installation of a new dishwasher and are paying for cost of additional waste. We are trying to keep this to a minimum.

We will continue to monitor the quality of school meals.

We would particularly like to thank Hayley Back for the huge amount of extra work she has put in to make things run smoothly.

THANK YOU TO RETIRING GOVERNORS & WELCOME TO NEW GOVERNORS

We would like to say a big thank you to Louise Mason, Jane May and Simon Belshaw for their hard work on the governing body and for the contribution they made to the work of the school.

We welcome Khadija Alamoudi as a new parent governor and Jill Mather who has been co-opted. They will tell you something about themselves in the newsletter over the coming weeks.

We have advertised for another governor to join us, preferably a parent or carer. If you are interested in joining the governing body, please let Ruth Jones or Hayley Back know. They will put you in touch with me.

You can read about what governors here: www.newtownprimaryschool.co.uk/governorpage/.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Lloyd

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body